



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gina Y. Sweat, Director of Fire Services

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CHURCH FIRE

800 N. Claybrook Street (*The Smothers Chapel CME Church*)

MEMPHIS, TN - The Memphis **Fire** Department responded to an alarm of fire at 800 N. Claybrook Street, Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 7:49 p.m. Upon arrival on the scene, firefighters reported smoke visible from the one story church. Sixteen (16) pieces of **Fire/Rescue/EMS** equipment and approximately thirty-eight (38) emergency response personnel ultimately responded to the call. Battalion Chief C. Burton was the commanding officer of this incident. The fire was brought under control at 8:05 p.m. There were no firefighter or civilian injuries.



The church **did not have** a sprinkler system. The structure sustained smoke, fire and water damage. Total damage is estimated at \$5,000 building and \$2,000 contents. The origin and cause of the fire was determined to be intentionally set in multiple locations in the interior of the structure. This fire remains under investigation. *Anyone with information regarding this incident and any arson related crimes are asked to call Crime Stoppers at 528-CASH (2274) or the State Arson Hotline at 1-800-762-3017. You could be eligible to receive a cash reward from Crime Stoppers of Memphis and Shelby County, Inc.*

The Memphis **Fire** Department urges all citizens to maintain a working smoke alarm in their place of residence. Check smoke alarms once a month and change the battery when you change your clocks. City of Memphis residents may apply for a **free smoke alarm** by completing an application on-line: <https://www.memphistn.gov/government/fire-department/free-smoke-alarm-application/> or by contacting the Fire Museum of Memphis at (901) 636-5650. Always have a plan of escape in case there is a fire. Also remember that 9-1-1 is for emergencies only. For all other **FIRE/EMS NON-EMERGENCY** issues please dial (901) 458-8281.

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